

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendments and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 and 24-30 are pending. By the amendment Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 16, 20, 24, 25 and 29 are amended and Claims 5, 22 and 23 are canceled. The subject matter of Claim 23 is incorporated into independent Claim 1. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the October 20, 2005 personal interview. The substance of the discussions held are incorporated into the previous amendments and following remarks and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

The Office Action objects to the specification. The specification is amended to obviate the objection.

The Office Action rejects Claims 6-14, 20, 21, 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph and objects to Claim 23. The Office Action rejects Claims 1, 5 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over DE 2506746 to Fendt, Claims 2-4 and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt in view of U.S. patent 2,862,720 to Stone, Claims 9-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt in view of FR 2638431 to Fauville, Claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt and Fauville in view of Stone, Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt in view U.S. patent 6,666,160 to Wang, Claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt and Wang in view of Fauville, Claims 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt, Wang, Fauville and Stone, Claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt in view of FR 2757831 to Bernard, Claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt, Bernard and Wang, Claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt, Bernard, Wang and Fauville and Claims 28-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Fendt, Bernard, Wang and Fauville and Stone. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 12, 13, 16, 20, 25 and 29 are amended to obviate the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Furthermore, features of Claims 6 and 12 are disclosed in Figure 7 and the features of Claim 9 are disclosed in Figure 6. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 23 is canceled. Thus, this objection is moot.

Before considering the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is believed that a brief review of the subject matter of independent Claim 1 would be helpful. Independent Claim 1 includes a transporting device including a table, a pair of post units spaced from each other and including two posts connected together. A pair of units supporting means support the pair of posts units so that the pair of posts units may be locked in a vertical position or unlocked and moved toward a mount surface of the table. The pair of units supporting means include a pair of brackets affixed to the table and a moveable rod mounted on the pair of brackets. The rod is selectively moveable in an upward or downward position. A biasing member constantly biases the movable rod upward and when the moveable rod is pushed downward against an action of the biasing member, the moveable rod is released from the two posts to allow the post units to be angularly moved toward the mount surface.

With respect to amended independent Claim 1, none of the applied references disclose a moveable rod including a biasing member, said moveable rod being pushed downward against an action of the biasing member. On page 10, paragraph 17 of the Office Action, the Office Action asserts it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify Bernard by having the rod move in the upward direction to lock, since the Applicant has not disclosed that having the rod move in a specific direction to lock is for any particular purpose and it appears that the locking would perform equally as well in reverse by having the locking of the post be in the downward direction. This assertion is respectfully traversed.

Specifically, the specification discloses at page 8, line 19 that the rod may be unlocked by stepping on it. Thus, by stepping on the rod the user's hands are freed to remove the posts. Furthermore, the user does not have to bend down and hold the rod in the upward position. Thus, Applicant has disclosed that the rod moves in a specific direction for a particular purpose.

With respect to dependent Claims 9, 16 and 25, the features of which are disclosed in Figure 6, none of the applied references disclose the legs of a table of another article transporting/storing device are positioned between unit supporting means and edges of the table on the mount surface. As disclosed in Figure 6, legs 5 and 5a rest on surfaces 27 and 27a between the unit supporting means 4 and 4a and the edges 26 and 26a. This feature is not disclosed by any of the applied art.

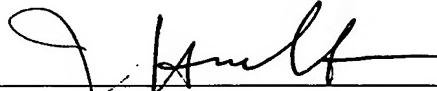
The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to independent Claim 1, and for the features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejections of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 34,423

James D. Hamilton  
Registration No. 28,421

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)  
GJM/MB:aif

I:\ATTY\MB\23\S\239872US\AM1A.DOC